

Appln No. 09/775,677

Amdt date September 2, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office action mailed June 29, 2004. Claim 29 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 14-17, 22, 25-27, 30, 32-40 and 74 are currently pending.

On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner objects to the new sentence added to the end of the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 22 because the new sentence allegedly introduces new matter. Applicant cancels the added sentence in this amendment, but reserves the right to add this sentence to any continuation application that is based on the disclosure in U.S. Serial No. 09/345,475 and reserves the right to argue that the added sentence is not new matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the acceptance of the terminal disclaimer filed on March 11, 2004 and the approval of the changes to Fig. 13.

On pages 4-5 of the Office action, claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Langberg et al. Applicant cancels claim 29, but reserves the right to reassert the claim in any continuation application that is based on the disclosure in U.S. Serial No. 09/345,475 and reserves the right to argue that the claim is patentable in all respects.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 14-17, 22, 25-27, 30, 32-40 and 74.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

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If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with applicant's attorney might expedite the prosecution of the application, she is invited to call at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

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626/795-9900

MEG/cks

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